

To the Public Health Committee:

As we have informed your Chair Susan Johnson in the past, we believe it is essential that you bring to law HB 5326, An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill.

Anyone who has seen a loved one suffer during his or her final days should recognize why end-of-life-choice is so important for the dignity of the patient and the foundation of humanity.

This year one of us was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, which brought the end-of-life issue closer to home and made the bill seem even more relevant. While we are uncertain whether we would employ the solution it offers, it is comforting to have the option and know we can avoid severe pain and suffering in our final days. According to one poll, a majority of Connecticut residents agree with this position. Those who don't have the choice to spend their final days as they think best. The essence of the bill is choice. It includes many safeguards which will prohibit indiscriminate application and will protect those, such as the disabled, who fear that it might inappropriately be applied to them.

Connecticut should join the states that already have such legislation. It is the wise and humane thing to do. HB 5326 should become law.

Thank you for your consideration.

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